

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 00845 202348Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01
COME-00 EB-08 DOE-11 H-02 INR-10 INT-05 L-03
OMB-01 PM-05 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00
ACDA-12 PA-02 DOEE-00 /111 W
-----103644 202356Z /65

O 202346Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6373
INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMCONSUL CALGARY
AMCONSUL HALIFAX
AMCONSUL QUEBEC
AMCONSUL TORONTO
AMCONSUL VANCOUVER
AMCONSUL WINNIPEG

UNCLAS OTTAWA 00845

DEPARTMENT FOR JOHN ROUSE, EUR/CAN

DEPARTMENT PASS DOE/FERC FOR COMMISSIONER SMITH AND JOHN
ADGER, AND DOE FOR LES GOLDMAN AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY
BERGOLD.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, PGOV, SENV, CA

SUBJECT: NORTHERN GAS PIPELINE: ENERGY MINES AND
RESOURCES (EMR) MINISTER COMMENTS ON NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD
(NEB) PIPE SIZE AND PRESSURE RECOMMENDATIONS

REF: OTTAWA 843

1. EMR MINISTER ALASTAIR GILLESPIE TABLED NEB REPORT ON
PIPE SIZE (SUMMARIZED REFTTEL) IN HOUSE OF COMMONS AFTERNOON
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FEBRUARY 20. HIS PRESENTATION COVERED MAIN POINTS OF NEB
REPORT AND ARGUED FORCEFULLY THAT PIPELINE WAS IN CANADIAN
NATIONAL INTEREST.

2. GILLESPIE LAID PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON POINT THAT PIPE-
LINE WILL BENEFIT CANADA BECAUSE, WHEN CONNECTED TO DEMPSTER
LATERAL, IT WOULD BRING WESTERN ARCTIC GAS TO CANADIAN MAR-

KETS BY MID-1980'S. GILLESPIE SAID OPPOSITION STATEMENTS THAT CANADA DOES NOT NEED WESTERN ARCTIC GAS BECAUSE IT HAS SUFFICIENT QUANTITIES IN ALBERTA IGNORE FACT THAT "GAS BUBBLE" REPRESENTS SHORT-TERM PRODUCIBILITY INCREASES, NOT GROWTH IN LONG-TERM RESERVES. CANADA MUST PROTECT ITSELF FROM IMPENDING WORLD OIL SUPPLY CRUNCH BY DEVELOPING ALL ITS ALTERNATIVE DOMESTIC ENERGY SUPPLIES. WESTERN ARCTIC GAS RESERVES, GILLESPIE SAID, ARE CRITICAL IN THIS REGARD AND ONLY WAY TO GET THEM TO MARKET ECONOMICALLY IS VIA DEMPSTER LATERAL PROVIDED FOR IN U.S.-CANADA PIPELINE AGREEMENT.

3. NOTING THAT 56-INCH/1080 PSI SYSTEM RECOMMENDED BY NEB WAS NOT CONTEMPLATED AT TIME OF NEGOTIATIONS AND THEREFORE NOT INCLUDED IN TECHNOLOGIES DISCUSSED IN ANNEX III OF AGREEMENT, GILLESPIE SAID AGREEMENT SHOULD BE AMENDED BY EXCHANGE OF DIPLOMATIC NOTES. SINCE PIPELINE LEGISLATION WILL ENACT AGREEMENT, BILL C-25 WILL ALSO HAVE TO BE AMENDED TO INCLUDE THIS CHANGE. GILLESPIE DID NOT COMMENT ON HOW U.S. CONGRESS WOULD DEAL WITH THESE CHANGES.

4. EMBASSY WILL CABLE APPROPRIATE QUOTES FROM GILLESPIE'S REMARKS SOONEST. ENDERS

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